Rothermel

4/17/79

Dear Earl,

Thanks for your 5/14 and the enclosed copies of your stories. Nobody sends them any more so I am not up to date on what you do.

I had no doubt about the basic accuracy of the FBI's info attributed to Rothermel because I knew he knew these things and once upon a time how he knew them. I had discussed at least one of those threats with him, the Walker-related students at Denton State.

I have no recollection of an alleged left-wing planned demonstration.

I do not see Penn's newsletter unless someone sends me a copy. Long ago I decided that the best way of not having some of them get mad at me for not subscribing to all of them was to subscribe to none. Most of what they carry is trash anyway. I've seen some good pieces in an occasional issue of Penn's and some of your pieces. I was not aware of the Soutre/Roux one.

On your FOIA request for the files on you may I suggest that you amend it to include PA? If you do this they can't charge you search fees under PA and anything of a personal nature or otherwise nasty is not to be disclosed to others if you do it under PA. It is safer to use both.

If you do not specify the field offices they generally limit themselves to what they do not want to avoid at FBIHQ and provide nothing from the FO files. In your case you'd certainly want to include Dallas, perhaps Milwaukee.

If you've asked only Dallas they will not include FBIHQ, which does have what the FOs do not, especially in the form of notes added to copies of stories.

Your hunch on the leak of the Hosty/Oswald story sounds like the best I've heard to date, a former KC FO clerk. Or was it an SA? If you can amplify this in any way I'd like to file that with the file I've made on records relating to that flap.

It makes sense that such a person would await Shanklin's retirement because it was certain that he in particular could not tell the truth. And didn't, by the way.

What is surprising is the number of people who knew the story and said nothing outside the FBI.

The size of the file I've accumulated precludes my offering to make copies of to review it with the other work I can't get done but if your people should ever develop any interest they'd be welcome to access and copies. It is a classic non-investigation, with such tidbits as typical chest-thumping at FBIHQ as extensive obliterations under "national security" claim as "this proves that we have absolutely nothing to hide."

They all sleep with Orwell under the pillow.

Best wishes,